reservation to passengers at short notice. The reservation under this scheme commences at 8 A.M. on the previous day of the journey. The scheme is being introduced in more and more trains.

Gauge-conversion in Gujarat

772. SHRI BRAHMA KUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether gauge conversion of NG/MG lines into BG lines on the Navlakhi-Dahinsara, Morbi-Wankaner and Dahinsara-Maliya Miyana Railway lines in Gujarat has been sanctioned;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the work of gauge conversion has been started; and

(d) if so, when and by when the work would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. This work is already sanctioned in the year 1995-96. All clearances have been received and the work has been taken up. Work is planned to be completed in 1999-2000 subject to availability of resources.

Extension of Suburban railway network in Mumbai

773. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken fresh initiatives to upgrade/strengthen/extend suburban railway network in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details of the projects finalised/ approved/under implementation/under consideration and progress achieved thereon, project-wise with present status thereof; and

(c) the details of action plan finalised for the current year and Ninth Five Year Plan period-physical and financial targets set, financing pattern finalised for various agencies to strenthen and modernise suburban Railway transport, ensuring safety and security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes Sir, Upgradation/strengthening and extension of suburban railway network in Mumbai is a continuous process. Recently Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between Government of Maharashtra and Indian Railways for setting up of Mumbai Rail Vikas Corporation to undertake the projects, which have been identified under Mumbai Urban Transport Project-II (MUTP-II). Cost of these projects will be shared in a ratio of 50:50 between Government of Maharashtra and Indian Railways.

(b) and (c) Following are the details or projects which are already sanctioned and are under different stages of implementation:—

Cost of projects under S. Nos. 1, 2 and 3 is being shared between CIDCO and Indian Railways in a ratio of 67:33 S. Nos. 1 to 6 belong to Central Railway, while S. Nos. 7 to 10 pertain to Western Railway.

In addition to above, the following projects have been identified under MUTP-II, which may be taken up in the IX & X Plan period subject to availability of funds under MTP Plan Head. Some of these projects, as also procurement of AC/DC EMUs. could be taken up with the assistance of World Bank. The details are under discussions with the World Bank, and others concerned.

(i) Western Railway optimisation (including 12 car rakes on through line)

(ii) Central Railway optimisation (including 12 car rakes on through line)

(iii) Central Railway 12 cars on local line

(iv) Western Railway 12 cars on local line

(v) 6th line Borivali-Santacruz (vi) Bandra-Kurla East West Line (vii) Optimisation on Harbour Line (viii) 5th line Kurla-Dadar-CST